

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Giles (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,054) in view of Denio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,269,021).

Claims 8-16 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants rights to pursue these claims in a separate application or again in the present application. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended. Claim 17-26 has been added. Claims 6 and 10-26 are pending.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Giles (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,054) in view of Denio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,269,021). In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-5 and 7-9 without prejudice to Applicants rights to pursue these claims in a separate application

Claim Objections

Claims 8-16 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have (a) amended Claim 6 to incorporate therein the limitations of canceled Claims 7 and 9, and amended Claim 10 to depend upon Claim 6; and (b) added new independent Claim 17 which is the rewritten Claim 8 to include the limitations of both independent Claim 6 and canceled Claim 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections as to Claims 8-16, now rewritten as Claims 6 and 10-17, have been traversed and that Claims 6 and 10-17 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objection as to these claims and immediately allow these claims to issue.

Additional New Claims

In addition to new Claim 17 discussed herein above, Applicants have also added new Claims 18-26 as computer-readable medium claims corresponding to pending method Claims 6 and 10-17. For the same reasons that Claims 6 and 10-17 are allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 18-26 are likewise allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that these new Claims 18-26 be allowed to issue along with Claims 6 and 10-17.

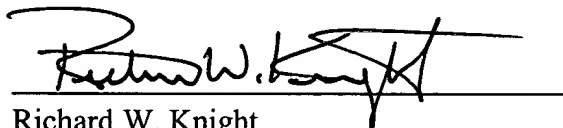
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CONCLUSION

Based on the reasons and rationale set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome and, accordingly, Applicants request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicants' undersigned representative earnestly requests a telephone conference at (206) 332-1394.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 18, 2005


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